THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been some delay in finalising the matter as the Bill had to be redrafted in light of certain amendments suggested by the Selected Committee of Delhi Legislative Assembly to which it had been referred for consideration.

North-East Economic Packages

1545. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Government's North-Eastern packages for economic development of the region; and

(b) what has been the fate of the earlier packages announced by UF Government?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The salient features of Government's North-Eastern packages include, inter-alia, setting up a Commission for determination of gaps in infrastructure and Basic Minimum services in the North Eastern Region; priority for creation of employment opportunities for the educated unemployed and setting up a High Level Committee on educated unemployed; full funding for on-going projects; Comprehensive Water Management and Flood Control Measures; full coverage through Employment Assurance Schemes and expansion of Border area Roads to cover Indo-Mynamar Border; allocation of 10% of budget by Central Ministries for specific programmes in North East; improvement in credit flows; formulation of new Industrial Policy; development of tourism; improvement in railway infrastructure and measures for control of Narcotics & AIDS.

(b) The earlier package continues.

Suicide Attempt by Railway employee

1546. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Railway employee from Bihar set himself ablaze on the road outsides P.M's official residence; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Shri Brij Mohan r/o district Darbhanga, Bihar visited 7, Safdarjung Road, New Delhi on 5.5.98 to meet the Prime Minister and was given access after due checks. As the Prime Minister's meeting with the public on that day had been called off in advance, all persons who had assembled were met by the personal staff of P.M. after which all of them includiang Shri Brij Mohan left. However, Shri Brij Mohan seems to have returned to Safdarjung Road after some time and set himself ablaze in front of House No. 1, Safdarjung Road, New Delhi. He was immediately removed to Sadarjung Hospital where he succumed to burn injuries the same day.

Pension for Freedom fighters in Meghalaya

1547. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items appearing in the Indian Express, dated the 18th April, 1998 under the Caption "Freedom fighters still await pension in Meghalaya; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The news-item under reference relates to the pension given to the freedom

fighters by the State Government and does not concern the Central Government. However, Central Governments' Swatantrata sanik Samman Pension Scheme covers freedom fighters of Meghalaya as well and so far pension has been sanctioned by the Central Government in 86 cases belonging to Meghalaya.

Service condition of Home Guards

1548. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to bring about some kind of legislation to improve the service conditions of Home Guards in the Country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Cheating by Non-banking Financial Companies

1549. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints of investors being cheated by the non-banking financial companies in the capital have increased recently;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received in 1997 and 1998 so far;

(c) whether it is also fact that the Delhi Police is not equipped to deal with such complaints efficiently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Delhi police have reported that the number of complaints of investors being cheated by the non-financial banking companies in the capital have increased from *764* in 1997 to *866* in 1998 so far.

(c) and (d) An Economic Offences Wing was set up in Delhi Police in 1994 to investigate such white collar crfimes.

Reconsitution of NEC

1550. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to reconstitution the North-Eastern Council with the inclusion of Sikkim as an integral part of it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many times the said Council has met during the last three years and what were the main problems discussed and recommendations made, if any?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. the North Eastern Council is proposed to be reconstituted with the inclusion of Sikkim and the appointment of the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission as its Chairperson. The requisite bill will shortly be moved before the Parliament.

(c) the North Eastern Council has met thrice during the last three years. The important recommendations made during these meetings include, inter-alia, restructuring of North Eastern Council to include Sikkim; adoption of special economic and industrial policy for the north Eastern region; introduction of helicopter services in the North Eastern region; according priority to construction of roads and bridges; provision of funds for maintenance of roads constructed with funds from the North Eastern Council; and provision of resources for development of airports in the North Eastern region.